

District Newsletter

DG Corinna Christensen
1st VDG Jon Kimble
2nd VDG Gary Lewis
montanalions.org

October
2025

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Montana Lions on the Move: Building on a Strong Foundation From the Desk of Governor Corinna October 2025

District 37 Lions — Mental Health & Well-Being Week of Service, October 4–12, 2025

Dear Lions of District 37,

Mark your calendars! From **October 4–12, 2025**, Lions around the world will unite for our **Week of Service focused on Mental Health & Well-Being**. Here in Montana, I invite every club — and even individual Lions — to join in making this week **fun, uplifting, and impactful**.

Mental health touches every family and community. Through small acts of kindness, awareness, and service, we can show that Lions care and that no one has to struggle alone.☀️ Service Project Ideas for Clubs:

- **Host a Community Wellness Fair**

Invite local professionals (counselors, fitness coaches, nutritionists, yoga instructors) to share tips and resources.

- **“Walk & Talk” Events**

Organize a group walk in your community park where people can connect and reduce stress through conversation and movement.

- **School Connections**

Partner with local schools to host a “Kindness Wall” where students can post positive messages.



- **Senior Outreach**

Arrange visits to nursing homes or assisted living centers to brighten residents' days with conversation, games, or music.

- **Mental Health Awareness Night**

Invite a guest speaker to a Lions meeting or host a public event to reduce stigma and provide helpful information.



Ideas for Individual Lions

- **Daily Acts of Kindness:** Write a thank-you note, pay for someone's coffee, call a friend who may be struggling.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Spend time at your local food bank, library, or senior center.
- **Self-Care Commitment:** Model good habits — take a walk, meditate, read a good book, and share it with others.
- **Social Media Cheerleaders:** Post uplifting quotes, share Lions service stories, and encourage conversations about well-being.



Fun Facebook & Social Media Posts

- Post a daily “kindness challenge” during the week (e.g., *Monday: Call a friend you haven't spoken to in a while*).
- Share photos of your club's service projects with hashtags:
#MontanaLions #LionsServe #MentalHealthMatters
- Encourage members to share what *they* do for mental well-being: walking, fishing, crafting, journaling — whatever works!



Let's Make It Fun

- Turn your regular meeting into a “Wellness Night” with healthy snacks, games, or stress-relief activities.
- Create a “Joy Jar” — fill it with slips of paper containing positive quotes or affirmations. Give them out to community members.
- Challenge clubs across the District: *Which club can complete the most acts of kindness during the week?* Report your totals and we'll celebrate together



In Closing

Lions, this is our chance to shine a light on mental health, break down stigma, and bring joy to others. Whether you organize a big community project or simply do one kind thing each day, it all matters.

Let's make **October 4–12, 2025** a week to remember in District 37. Together, we'll spread hope, kindness, and connection.

Yours in Service,

DG Corinna Christensen

District Governor, Montana Lions District 37

From the Desk of Immediate Past DG Raleigh G. Peck

October 2025



Thanks for reading this edition of the newsletter. The first quarter of this year is already gone and now it's **hunting season** — time to hunt for new Lions.

I am motivated since we just returned from the USA/Canada Lions Forum in Atlantic City, and I must say, the committee outdid themselves again. There were about 100 different one-hour informational sessions to attend, plus the ever-popular Speed Learning.

Some of the sessions I made it to were on Leos and building new Leo Clubs, using AI to market our clubs, LCIF's global impacts, creating great events, recruiting younger Lions, injecting fun into meetings, and marketing strategies for clubs. Having never been to Atlantic City before, it was awesome to explore the Boardwalk and even leave a couple of dollars at the casinos.

This was only my 3rd time attending, and I cannot count how many people I reconnected with. Don't be nervous about attending the forum — **EVERYONE there is a Lion just like you, all there for the same reason: to be a better person and make our communities a better place to live.**

I challenge all of you to attend the next forum in Memphis, TN, Sept. 3–5, 2026. I also challenge future governors to allocate a few more bucks in their budget to help get our Lion Leaders to these forums, and I encourage every club to set a line item in your budget to help members attend. These forums are **THE BEST gathering of Lions and Leos.**

A real highlight for me was receiving my Lions University Master's Degree — super proud of that achievement! Every Lion should visit our district website www.montanalions.org, click on the Lions University link, and sign up. The trainings there are recordings from past forums.



● Fall Membership Hunt – Quick Wins

Here are three simple steps every club can take this fall to grow membership and deepen community roots:

- **Host a pop-up service event** — coffee, cookies, or a cleanup — and invite neighbors to join.
- **Partner with a local school, nonprofit, or business** to expand visibility and attract like-minded community builders.
- **Share your Lions story on social media** — post one photo of service this week and invite someone to ask about it.

If you want a great “Lions Moment,” we'll see you next September in Memphis!

Yours in service,
IPDG Raleigh

President's Message Lead to Serve, Serve To Lead with International President A.P. Singh



Dear Lion,

“We serve” is more than just a motto. It’s a way of life for Lions. In addition to all of the great local causes we support, we are known for our commitment to global causes such as hunger, vision, the environment, and newer initiatives like mental health and well-being.

Now is the time to plan our service for the year, and there is no better place to start than with a Lions global cause. And be sure to invite friends, associates and family to serve with you so they can see how powerful, fulfilling and fun service truly is.

Once they start appreciating the satisfaction of serving others, you can ask them to join the pride of Lions. When we have more Lions serving, we can change more lives than ever before; that is the essence of *MISSION 1.5*.

I look forward to seeing your global projects and the impact they have on the people we serve!

Together in service,

A.P. Singh
International President

REFLECTIONS from the USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM ATLANTIC CITY 2025

Dear Fellow Lions,



Another USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is behind us—and what a powerful experience it was. For a few days, it felt like we had all escaped from the hustle of everyday life and stepped into a space filled with purpose, passion, and positivity.

There's something truly uplifting about being surrounded by so many like-minded people. The beauty of the forum lies not only in its programming but in the energy it brings. It arms you with new ideas, reshapes your mindset, and inspires a renewed commitment to service. Admittedly, absorbing all the information at once can be a bit overwhelming—but it's the best kind of overload.



Every Lion I met was open-minded, whether during a seminar, sharing a cup of tea (or a glass of wine) at the end of the day, standing in line, or simply chatting between sessions. In every interaction, there were little nuggets of wisdom—moments that re-anchor you in the "why" behind what we do. These connections remind us that leadership in Lions is as much about listening and learning as it is about doing.



Still, there's no place like home—and I'm grateful to be back in my own bed, feeling refreshed and ready to get back to reality.

One of the seminars I attended focused on an important topic: **membership**. We talked about the challenge of losing Lions through the "back door"—those who quietly slip away from our clubs—and how to attract and retain passionate new members. The conversation was eye-opening and constructive. Strengthening the heart of Lionism—our district, our clubs, and our shared mission—will take effort, but also joy, courage, and a sense of fun.

My biggest takeaway? We must *bring others along* on this journey. It takes bravery to lead, but even more to inspire others to walk beside you. And I believe we are all up to the task.



Thank you for everything you do for your clubs, your communities, and for the greater mission of Lionism.

In service and gratitude,
Margaret Baylinson
Zone 3 Chair

CLUBS HELPING CLUBS

Global Membership Team

Global and Montana Membership - October, 2025

On September 28th, the East Missoula Lions Club hosted a community BBQ to share with their neighbors who Lions are and what we do.

They were joined by several Lions from the Seeley Lake Lions Club, and together they created a very successful day with over 30 community members in attendance.



Results:

- At least 10 new member applications were turned in, with hopes that these individuals will inspire even more friends and family to join.
- President Jack Ballas of East Missoula led the effort, supported by an enthusiastic crew
- Zone Chair Rob Shaffer and Lion Clay Creek worked the grills, while Lions Jayne Lux and Mike Feretich (Seeley Lake Club President) welcomed guests and answered questions to spark interest in Lionism.

A big thank you to everyone who made this day such a success!

If your club would like to host a similar event to boost membership and visibility, please reach out to your Zone Chair for guidance.

Not sure who your Zone Chair is? Check the listing here: [District 37 Zone Directory](#)

Some zones are currently without a Zone Chair—if that is the case for your club, please contact DG Corinna Christensen for support.

Together we can keep growing the strength of Lions across Montana.





Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



District LCIF Co-Chairs PDG Lary Garrison & PDG Mike Tobin

October 2025

As humanitarians, we respond whenever and wherever the need arises. Grants from our global foundation enhance our service. I am proud to report that District 37 has one grant application in progress and another in the works. Both are matching grants to help their local food banks. Currently the LCIF Board of Trustees have approved 114 grants, totaling more than US\$9.3 Million in this Lionistic year. What could you do for your community with that kind of money? All you have to do is find the need and apply.

This month we recognize Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the way Lions, Leos and others, empowered by LCIF funding, raise awareness, promote early detection and support care. What do you think your community needs are towards this awareness? Just look - you might be surprised what you find. Then when you find the need, apply for the grant. The District can have up to seven grants at the same time.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Mike Tobin
P.O. Box 408
Sunburst, Mt. 59482
406-450-2780
miktob1951@gmail.com

PDG Lary Garrison
703 Conway St.
Billings, Mt. 59105
406-855-6997

lionlarygarrison@gmail.com

Thank you for your past and future support for Lions Clubs International Foundation!

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

October 2025

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Statistics

Please find below the statistics from January 1, 2025 to September 26, 2025

- Applications Received: 34
- Assistance Provided: 19
- Total Cost of Assistance Provided: \$25,308.72
- Applications Received From: Billings, Belgrade, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Coram, Corvallis, East Missoula, Great Falls, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston, Missoula, Sidney, Superior, Townsend, Trego and Whitefish

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Fellowships

Foundation Fellowship: Foundation Fellowships can now be purchased by individuals. Foundation Fellowships are used to recognize outstanding Lions and other deserving individuals. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation endorses this Fellowship. The Fellowship award includes a lapel pin and a mounted certificate and may only be bestowed by a Lions Club on an individual or group of individuals with a donation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

PID Fellowship: The PID Dave Hajny, PID Tom Lehman, PID Gary Tschache and PID Ben Apeland Fellowships are now available. The fellowships recognize the contributions to Lionism made by PID's Dave, Tom, Gary and Ben. The new fellowships are a great way to provide recognition for a deserving Lion. Fellowships can be purchased for five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Life Membership: A Life Membership to the Foundation, which includes a lapel pin and pocket card can be bestowed by an individual, group of individuals, Lions Club or can be purchased by an individual with a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Montana Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Memorial or Honorarium: Remember a loved one or honor that special person by donating to the Foundation. What better way to remember or honor someone than having your donation live in perpetuity? Your Memorial or Honorarium donation is never spent; only the interest earned on these assets will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.

Club Contribution – CHANGE as of January 1, 2025

For over eight years, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has not made any changes to the club contribution towards applications. However, due to the increase in the cost of hearing aids and other services over that time, the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation voted at the January board meeting to increase all club contributions towards applications *from \$200.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater to \$300.00 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is greater.*

The Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation is looking to purchase an enclosed trailer to use to haul the current ATV the Foundation is set to raffle off as our yearly fundraiser. Specs for the trailer: 14' of 16' (preferred) long x 7' tall. If you have a trailer to sell or know of anyone looking to sell a trailer, please have them reach out to PDG Dan Sturdevant at 406-439-9297.

Thank you for your continued support of the Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation.

PlusOptix

October 2025

District 37 PlusOptix Update – PlusOptix screening totals for school year September 2025 to June 2026: **3,963 screened with 541 refers.**

Have a GREAT School Year!

Lion David Falcon, District 37 PlusOptix Chair

314 9th St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901; C. 406-253-1726: lion.dfalcon@gmail.com

Message from the District Treasurer

October 2025

IRS FILING REMINDER

If your Lions club's fiscal year ended on June 30, 2025, it is now time to prepare and submit the appropriate IRS paperwork. The filing requirements depend on your club's gross receipts and total assets. Clubs with annual gross receipts of less than \$50,000 are only required to submit the Form 990-N, commonly called the e-Postcard. Clubs whose receipts are greater than \$50,000 but remain below \$200,000, and whose total assets are less than \$500,000, have the option of filing either Form 990-EZ or Form 990. Any club with receipts of \$200,000 or more, or assets of \$500,000 or more, must file the full Form 990. If your club operates an affiliated foundation that is a separate legal entity, that foundation must also file its own IRS return.

Before a Form 990-N can be submitted, the filer must register with the IRS at IRS.gov. This registration is only required once if the same club officer continues to handle the filing each year. However, when the responsibility changes hands, the new designee must complete their own registration before they will be able to file.

The deadline for filing is set by the IRS as the fifteenth day of the fifth month following the close of the fiscal year. Because Lions clubs operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal calendar, the deadline for fiscal year 2025 is November 15, 2025. It is important to note that the Form 990-N cannot be extended; it must be filed by the due date.

The consequences of not filing are serious. A club that fails to meet the annual reporting requirement for three consecutive years will automatically lose its federal tax-exempt status. While reinstatement may be possible, it requires a new application to the IRS, and the process is neither immediate nor guaranteed. Protecting your club's exemption depends on meeting this straightforward annual obligation.

Every Lions club and district, whether or not it has employees, is required to have an Employer Identification Number (EIN). This number identifies the organization to the IRS and must be used when filing. Clubs without an EIN can apply by completing Form SS-4, which is available from the IRS, or by applying directly online at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). Applications may also be submitted by telephone or by fax, depending on the instructions provided for your state.

Please remember that Lions Clubs International is not authorized to give specific guidance on how your club should file. For general questions, you may consult the Lions Tax FAQ, or for official direction, visit the IRS website at [irs.gov/charities-non-profits](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits). The IRS also offers the EO Update newsletter, which provides timely information relevant to exempt organizations. If you have more detailed questions, you should contact a local tax professional or reach out directly to the IRS.

In short, filing on time is essential. **Mark November 15, 2025 on your calendar**, and ensure your club submits the required Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N so that your tax-exempt status remains secure.

District Marketing

October 2025

Daily Facebook Posts for Mental Health Week of Service

Day 1 – Saturday, Oct 4 🦁

🚀 It's here! Lions' **Mental Health & Well-Being Week of Service** kicks off today! Let's spread kindness and connection all week long. Today's challenge: Call or text someone you haven't spoken to in a while - just to say hello. #MontanaLions #LionsServe #MentalHealthMatters

Day 2 – Sunday, Oct 5 🌲

☀️ **Self-care Sunday!** Remember, caring for yourself is just as important as serving others. Take a walk, read a good book, or spend time outdoors. Share your favorite self-care activity in the comments! . #LionsCare #MentalWellness #MontanaLions

Day 3 – Monday, Oct 6 💬

✨ **Kindness Monday!** Write a thank-you note or leave a positive sticky note somewhere for someone to find. Little acts make a big difference. Clubs: Post photos of your members leaving kindness notes around town! #KindnessMatters #MontanaLions

Day 4 – Tuesday, Oct 7 ❤️💖

🧳 Today, let's support our youth! Encourage kindness in schools by starting a "Kindness Wall" or simply by telling a student you're proud of them. Share photos if your club partners with schools this week! #FutureLions #MentalHealthAwareness

Day 5 – Wednesday, Oct 8 🌻

👴 👵 Today's focus: **Senior Outreach!** Visit a nursing home, assisted living, or a senior neighbor. A smile and conversation can brighten someone's whole week. Post a picture of your club visiting seniors or drop a heart if you reached out individually. #LionsServe #MontanaLions

Day 6 – Thursday, Oct 9

💪 🧘 Wellness Thursday! 🚶 Host or attend a wellness event — yoga, a nature walk, or a healthy cooking demo. Share what you're doing for your body and mind today! #HealthyLions #MentalHealthWeek

Day 7 – Friday, Oct 10 🧠💚

🌍 World Mental Health Day

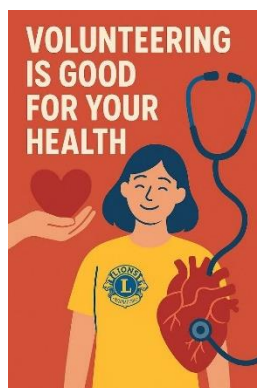
Today is a global reminder that **mental health matters** for all of us. Share one resource in your community that supports mental health — counseling, hotlines, or support groups. #WorldMentalHealthDay #MontanaLions

Day 8 – Saturday, Oct 11 🍔🌲

🎉 Service Saturday! Get your Lions club together for a group project — clean up a park, cook a meal, host a BBQ, or volunteer at a food bank. Post your club photos and tag **#MontanaLions** so we can celebrate your service! #WeServe #MentalHealthWeek

Day 9 – Sunday, Oct 12 💛

🦁 Wrapping up our Week of Service! Let's celebrate all the big and small ways we've spread kindness, wellness, and hope. Share your favorite highlight of the week below! #MontanaLions #LionsServe #MentalHealthMatters



CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

JOLIET HOLDS 5TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW & CRAFT FAIR FUNDRAISER

On September 6th we had a beautiful day for the 5th Annual Car Show and Craft Fair fundraiser event. Thanks to all our sponsors, donors, vendors, and attendees! This year we had 57 cars entered in the show. Awards were given for People's Choice (1956 Ford Crown Victoria), Participant's Choice (1938 DeSoto), and one lucky Raffle prize winner.

The day's events also included a Craft Fair with 27 vendors and a few Farmer's Market vendors. Shandi's Snack Shack and Gringo's Montana were our food vendors this year. All the funds raised go towards our local projects including Park improvements, Scholarships and Youth programs, and community beautification projects.



SEELEY LAKE LIONS RESPOND – WE SERVE!

One of Seeley Lake's Residents, Mary Welch, was viciously attacked by a dog on July 27, 2025 near her home, leaving her hospitalized for a week. She required over 200 stitches and two surgeries with the possibility of a third coming up. She had power washed her house and was saving up to have a local carpenter build her a new porch, but the attack left her unable to do anything.

Lions John and Sherry Fulton sprang into action forming a special committee to get quotes on materials and enlist the help of other members and residents. A few weeks later, with some hard labor in the sun, nine Lions, two volunteers and 215 hours of time resulted in not only building the porch, but painting her house complete with trim! We then sent over a truckload of firewood for the upcoming winter season from our wood shed that we keep stocked for residents in need in Seeley Lake.

When it was all finished, we came in at a third of what the club had budgeted for thanks to some very generous donations:

Timberline Lumber Co. supplied the lumber at a 50% discount.

Paint was donated by Lion Jeanette Feretich.

New porch lights were donated by Lion Ginger Williams.

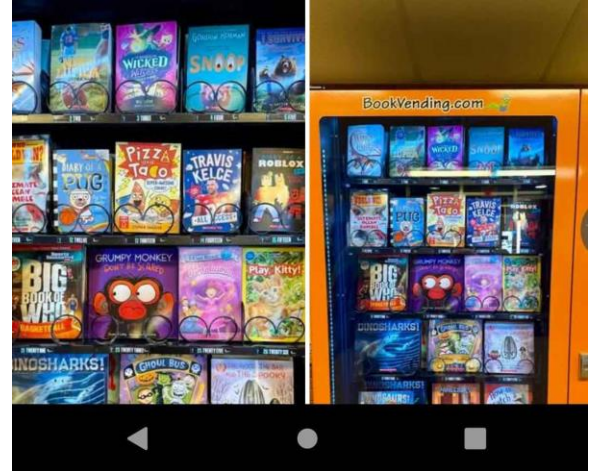
Special thanks goes out to the rest of the volunteers - Lions Jayne Lux, Ray and Sharon Stoetzel, Pete and Rachel Feigley, Terry Little, Beau Shatto and Patrick. Without their help and dedication to a community member in need, Mary would not have this. This is truly an example of Lionism - **We Serve!**



CUT BANK LIONS DONATE TO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Cut Bank Lions have made a \$500 to the National Honor Society at Cut Bank High School. These funds will be used to help buy books for the book vending machines located at HC Davis and Anna Jefferies Elementary schools. Students may purchase books using coin tokens obtained by acts of good behavior in classrooms and can keep the books as their own.

Our club is happy to support a positive reading experience for students as well as fostering good behavior and work ethic.



Pictured above (seated) are Lions Dave Jacobson, Lee Holden, President Chris Robinson, (standing) Roger Wayman, Randy LaValley, JoAn Printy, Darryl Omsberg and Linda Cady. Picture taken by Lion Robin Bradley.

District 37 Facebook Page

We all know that Lions serve from the heart, and now we want to see YOU in action! Whether you're planting trees, organizing a food drive, helping out at a community event, or any other service activity, we want to showcase the amazing work our Lions are doing.

We're looking for candid shots of Montana Lions actively engaging in service. We appreciate the posed group photos that commemorate events but we want to see how you have captured the real moments that show the spirit of Lionism in action!

How to Participate:

1. Snap candid photos of Lions in action during service activities.
2. Share your photos via message to the District Facebook Page (<https://m.me/MontanaLions>).
3. Include a brief description of the activity and the names of the Lions involved.

4. Bonus points for Lions wearing Lions Club logos on hats, vests, shirts, etc.!

Let's fill our media with the heart and soul of our District's service efforts. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words—let's show the world the impact of the MT Lions Clubs of District 37!

DISTRICT 37 ENDORSED PROJECTS

Diabetes- Now What? – PDG Dennis Kopitzke, djk_7491@rangeweb.net; PO Box 1266, Forsyth 59327; 406-346-1488.

Florence Crittenton Home (Helena) – Heather Green; Deputy Development Director, 3404 Cooney Drive, Helena, MT 59602; 406-438-1749 or 406-413-7042;; heatherg@florencewcrittenton.org; www.florencecrittenton.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind - PDG Jim Johnke, PO Box 206, Winnett, 59087; 406-928-3311; jjohnke@gmail.com; www.lionsclubs.org/leaderdog

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) – Co-Chairs
PDG Lary Garrison, 703 Conway Street, Billings, 59105; 406-855-6997;
lionlarygarrison@gmail.com; www.lcif.org
PDG Mike Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT 59482; 406-450-2780;
miktob1951@gmail.com

Lions Gift of Sight, (Actively Endorsed) - PDG Dan Sturdevant, PO Box 275, Clancy, MT 59634; 406-439-9297; sturdydan@gmail.com; www.opthalmology.umn.edu

Montana Association for the Blind –Doug Robinson, President, 406-217-2857, 1711 Avenue F, Billings MT 59102; president@mabsop.org; <https://www.mabsop.org/>

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation – Lion Jessica Fausey, PO Box 1925; Columbia Falls, MT 59912; 406-253-1737; lionjessicafausey@gmail.com;
www.mtlionsshfnd.org

Montana School for the Deaf & Blind Foundation – Lion Mark Willmarth, 220 38th Ave NE, Great Falls MT 59404; 406-899-6110; mark@visionwestmt.com;
<https://www.msdbmustangs.org/about-us/foundation/>

Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance – PDG Mike Collins; 40 Meadowlark Drive, Kalispell, 59901; 406-871-4176; mikeacollins@bresnan.net

SEE THE MEMORIAL VIDEO FROM THE 2025 DISTRICT CONVENTION IN HELENA POSTED UNDER “NEWS”

Forms can be submitted online at
<https://www.montanalions.org/memorial-necrology-service/>

The chairs for the Memorial/Necrology Service at the District's annual convention are the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. During the service they will be recognizing deceased Lions' service and years as a Lion, where we will be asking a club or family member to assist by receiving a memorial rose.

We are asking each club's help in securing information about the deceased Lion. We would like to have members of the club or family members in attendance for the service, as well.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following:

Deceased Lion's name: _____

Club's name _____

Number of years as a Lion: _____

Service projects involved in: _____

Club Offices held: _____

District Offices held: _____

Awards: _____

Please include the Lion's photo. Return no later than March 31st.

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you!

SPECIAL NOTICES

ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

IF YOU HAVE NOT ENTERED YOUR OFFICERS FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR, PLEASE CALL LION PEGGY TOBIN AT 406-461-4206 OR EMAIL HER AT pegtobin54@gmail.com !! YOU WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE LIONS PORTAL AS OF AUGUST 1ST.

ALL CLUB TREASURERS

PLEASE NOTE THAT LCI DUES WILL BE INCREASING JULY 1, 2025. THE INCREASE WILL BE \$2/YEAR (\$1/6-MONTH BILLING CYCLE) FOR FULL MEMBERSHIPS.

NOTE: New members are charged at a prorated amount depending on date joined.

DISTRICT 37 CLUB OFFICER TRAINING VIDEOS

These videos are all accessible via the district website, www.montanalions.org under “Training/Resources”.

All Club officers: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

Club President: Trainer PDG Mike Tobin

Club Secretary: Trainer Lion Peggy Tobin

Club Treasurer: Trainer PDG Mike Collins

Short videos about how to do specific secretary or treasurer tasks:

Filing your 990-N (e-Postcard) (9 minutes)

With the release of the new LionPortal, we have added links to some of the short videos provided by LCI – service Activities, How to Edit Members and How to Assign an Officer.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Any Lions club member can submit information associated with any type of Lions project or general club information. You can submit Club News ANYTIME via the website under News/Submit Club News. Here's the link <https://www.montanalions.org/submit-club-news/> You are also welcome to email your news (hopefully with photos) to: Lion Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The “Tri-Fold Generator” is available for clubs to create their own club brochures using a tri-fold format that your club can use to share your information to prospective new members. You will find it under Training/Resources on the website.

The club-level website is still being offered by Montana District 37 at NO COST! If you don't already have a domain name, Deanna can provide one for a cost of \$20/year after the first year. If you are interested in getting a website for your club, please contact Peggy Tobin at pegtobin54@gmail.com or call 406-461-4206.

DISTRICT WEBSITE & AVAILABLE LINKS:

Visit the district website at www.montanalions.org to find a wealth of valuable information regarding almost every aspect associated with the operation of the district. In addition, the “Links To” on the district website will take you to the websites below:

LCI website - Look for: general information, service projects, membership, club improvement, online training, media and news releases, and LCIF.

LionPortal –NEW The newly released access point to your Lion Account (for Members, Club Officers, District Officers, Activity Reporting and all things Lion).

Montana Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation*: Information regarding programs and sight, hearing and/or speech impairments.

LCIF* (Lions Clubs International Foundation) – Information regarding the Lions Clubs International Foundation and all of the focus areas – Vision, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, Environment and Hunger.

Lions University – Find out about year/round training provided by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

***Please note that the district website also provides a “Donate” button to donate to MT Sight & Hearing Foundation AND the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).**

DISTRICT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

DG Corinna Christensen; PO Box 295, Ennis MT 59729;
C: 406-570-6742; 406corinna@gmail.com

1st VDG Jon Kimble; PO Box 1583, Seeley Lake MT 59868;
C: 559-352-1455; jkimble@wellhead.com

2nd VDG Gary Lewis; PO Box 523, Seeley Lake MT 59868-0523;
C: 406-677-4072; slk3018@blackfoot.net

District Secretary/Administrator; Lion Peggy Tobin, PO Box 408, Sunburst MT, 59482;
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OCTOBER CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

177 years of service!!

Fort Benton	10/10/2005
Billings	10/20/1921
Joliet	10/22/1971

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING DATES

MT Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	October 18, 2025 @ 9:00am The Kopper Kitchen, Kalispell MT
District Cabinet Meeting	October 18 2025 @ 11:00am The Kopper Kitchen, Kalispell MT

2026 DISTRICT 37 CONVENTION

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
APRIL 17-18, 2026
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT**

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7
2027 Washington DC – July 2-6
2028 Singapore -June 23-27
2029 Minneapolis, MN
2030 San Antonio TX
2031 – Helsinki Finland

UPCOMING USA/CANADA FORUMS

**USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUMS CAN BE RELATED TO ALL
AREAS OF YOUR LIFE – NOT JUST LIONS**

2026 Memphis TN – September 3 - 5
2027 Huntsville, AB – September 16-18
2028 Grand Rapids, MI – To be announced
2029 Shreveport, LA – To be announced

MINUTES – August 2, 2025– CABINET MEETING

Peggy Tobin – District Administrator/Secretary

Attendees:

DG Corrinna Christensen, 2nd VDG Gary Lewis, Lion Steve Dogiakos Treasurer, PDG Mike Tobin-LCIF Co-chair, PDG Lion Dave Falcon, Plus Optix, Lion Jessica Fausey-MTLSHF, Lion Dan Krum, PDG Richard Gessling-GMT, PDG Melody Whitcher-Zone 14, PID Ben Apeland, Lion Peggy Tobin, Lion Marie & IPID Dave Hanjy, PDG Jim Jonke-Leader Dog.

VIA ZOOM - IPDG Raleigh Peck, 1st VDG Jon Kimble, PDG Mike Collins-GLT, Tom Naegele-Zone 5, Lion Adriane Miller-Leo Chair

1. Call to Order by DG Corinna Christensen at 11:06 AM
 - a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - b) Invocation: PDG Melody Whitcher
 - c) Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and what role they have in Lions
 - d) District Governor – Opening Remarks
 - a. IP A.P. Singh's directives – DG Corinna reviewed the directives and discussed how Montana can apply these directives. How to create programs that will be a lasting legacy and make an impact for our communities in Montana.
 - b. District goals – DG Corinna passed out her pin and reviewed her goals. She wants to continue the great communication that was established by IPDG Raleigh – monthly zoom meetings, monthly governor fireside chats. The extension team is going to be an action team and get out and work in the communities – she reviewed the two new branches that Zone Chair Margaret was able to start in Columbia Falls and Kalispell. Where we have potential new clubs, we need to have guiding lions. She wants to complete the governor's manual which she wants to have it more modern – sync it to a calendar, etc. Noted that the 2026 District Convention with Jessica and Dev is off to a great start. DG Corinna provided a list of the current club visit schedule which is planned to have 75% completed by November. We are ready to “Lead to Serve and Serve to Lead” IPD Dave H recommended that Zone Chair Jerry be made 3rd VDG. Corinna noted that he has not agreed to the position yet. Melody requested that the DG's let the zone chairs know when club visitations are scheduled.
2. Minutes: Motion by Mike T second by Steve to approve the May 4, 2025 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Financial Report: Steve reviewed the financial reports as of June 30, 2025. The reports are still preliminary. He still needs to transfer the surplus funds which will result in a \$3k profit. Pluses included a much less expensive training in Choteau. Mike T moved to approve the financial report and it was seconded by IPDG Raleigh. Mike C noted a minor correction for officer training and Mike T amended his motion to include the corrections. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda are noted in Item 8 below – Steve requested that under Committee Reports, strike the “Marketing & Membership Committee” as they haven't met yet.
5. Officer Reports
 - a. DG/VDGs Club Visitations – (added - discuss approving the 3rd VDG position)
Jon is currently resolving some scheduling conflicts where clubs are meeting at the same day/time, etc. The group discussed the 3rd VDG position and its purpose (to spread out the club visits) and noted that it is not an official LCI position and costs are absorbed by the district. PID Dave noted that Jerry should not visit his own club (Havre). A motion is not required as this is in the policy manual, but it is good discussion. Discussion followed regarding the potential candidate/zone chair

Jerry Kuhn. PID Ben encouraged DG Corinna to pursue Jerry. PID Dave noted that in the future, some of the club visits could become Zoom visits as LCI considers decreasing costs.

- b. Administrator/Secretary's Report – Peggy reported that all clubs have their 2025-2026 officers recorded in the LCI portal with the exception of Bozeman, Roundup and Whitefish. Letters were sent to all club secretaries who had not completed the process in May and she believes that helped as all but 15 clubs had completed the process by the end of June. LCI extended the access to the portal for all 2024-2025 officers to July 31st which also helped. The website updates continued for clubs, district and international officers. The first year international directors should post early next week. Posting of club news as well as the newsletters for June, July and August are completed and Peg started a series of posts of the Helena Convention which will be ongoing. The newsletter format also continues to evolve and she requested comments/concerns/suggestions as we move forward.
- c. Zone Reports
Tom – Zone 5 – he liked the idea of providing pictures from the zone meetings. There are some Melvin Jones awards to pass out at upcoming club meetings. He hasn't had direct contact yet with White Sulphur Springs. ZC Tom reviewed some of the club events going on in the zone. Broadwater-Townsend has their fair coming up. Their charter night is August 27th. PDG Mike T requested that the Melvin Jones awards be given out in September so he can attend. Tom is still working on Wilsall. White Sulphur Springs meets the third Thursday of the month. 2nd DG Gary and ZC Tom will try to coordinate both being at that meeting. Melody – Zone 14 – no report. PDG Richard noted again that every Zone Chair should provide a written monthly report to the cabinet. DG Corinna will work with the zone chairs to complete the same google form that the DG's complete for their club visits.
- d. Committee Reports –
 - i. GET – Jon and Gary both attended the Las Vegas northwest GET training and Jon also attended the international convention. During a CA1 Leadership Zoom Call, during a breakout session, Jon spoke with Daniel Marnie Elkins who emphasized that Service is how we strengthen our communities and Membership helps us expand our service mission. Jon will be working on getting information out to all of the clubs. Mike C and Raleigh noted that they both submitted and were approved as guiding lions, but never got information back from LCI. DG Corinna has lions in Ennis who are willing to work with the potential Ruby Valley club.
 - ii. GLT – Mike C sent a report. The regional VDG training is scheduled for Bozeman October 3-5, but we are not going to hold our annual leadership retreat. Wyoming is putting on a retreat and District 37 leaders are invited to attend. Mike C is asking that the district reimburse the \$125 registration fee for anyone who attends. Raleigh moved and amended a motion to have the District reimburse a total of up to \$2,000 for registration and transportation to the attendees. Melody seconded the motion and Richard seconded the amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike also reported that he is planning to do club officer training with two zoom trainings – one in the fall and one in the spring and at the convention. Mike C is going to start a “new lions' orientation” zoom training to include history, LCI goals, etc.
 - iii. GMT – Richard – reported that he is going back over the clubs that he has been given to work with. We did loose three clubs but gained six members. We are headed in the right direction. We are supposed to be bringing up leaders and asked opinions on his newsletter articles. 2nd VDG Gary reported that he gathered a lot of information in Las Vegas. They were very gung-ho and he has a lot of information to go through. They pushed a lot of specialty clubs. DG Corinna described how a specialty club is very focused (narrow service).

We need to evaluate if this service would work in Montana. 2nd VDG Gary noted that they are working on a specialty club (Pickle Ball) in Seeley - not sure if it will be a regular club or branch club.

- iv. GST – DG Corinna announced that Lion Cheryl Lewis is taking on the GST chair position. Gary noted that she will be going on the club visits with him.
- v. LCIF – Mike T reported - Good News – In area H there are five single districts who compete among themselves. District 37 has never made it's LCIF goal until 2024-2025. We made \$59K, 129% over the \$49K goal. And we achieved 1st place!! (Hawaii was 1st place for the past several years). Our fund raising was very good. Bad news – the cabinet has not given a dime to LCIF. It's hard to go out to the clubs and ask for donations when the cabinet does not. Mike moved to have the cabinet give \$5,000 to LCIF this year. Richard seconded the motion noting that he voted against it previously. Raleigh asked if the district would get the 15% grant and the answer is yes. PID Ben asked if the goal is to supplement clubs that can't afford \$1,000 for a Melvin Jones but the district could match a gift and Mike confirmed that it is. Following more discussion of pros and cons, question was called and the motion passed.
- vi. Special Advisory Committee – PID Ben noted that the recommendations from the last special advisory committee have been reflected during this cabinet meeting. He likened the group to the club board meetings.
- vii. Policy & By Laws Committee – Mike reported that he totally spaced a meeting and will have a zoom meeting scheduled. Steve noted that there is now a tool to use for our documents – docs.d37.online.
- viii. Leos - Lion Adrian noted that the goal is to get kids involved in groups during the summer when Leos are not meeting. Raleigh reported that he is taking on the Sidney Leo's advisor position and will report back on getting their information onto the portal. Richard noted that they should also be at the conventions.
- ix. Leader Dog – Jim reported that Brian G is now his co-chair with Leader Dog. There are online live presentations available for the clubs to have at their meetings.

6. Old Business

- a. Club Health Assessment (see attachment) – Comments were made regarding the timing of the reports.
- b. Club Officer Training- already covered

7. New Business

- a. Proposed 2025-2026 Budget – review and approval – Comments were made regarding report format – i.e. didn't include the previous year's budget and size of print. Steve will send out a different format. Mike T. moved to approve the budget. Steve seconded the motion noting that the budget was reviewed by the finance committee and the DG group. Questions were asked and answered regarding advertising and the motion passed.
- b. D & O Insurance – Steve noted that PID Dave referred to D&O insurance which is not included in the LCI insurance. The cost is based on the number of clubs in the district and for District 37 (40+) the annual premium is \$1,250. Lion Marie moved to proceed with D&O insurance for all cabinet members. Steve will research the best pricing. Dave H reviewed some of the exclusions. The motion passed.
- c. 2025 District Convention – Columbia Falls – Mike C and Monte have offered to assist

8. Additional Items – none
 9. Next meeting – October 18, 2025 at 11:00am
 10. Adjournment – Corinna adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm. Motion passed unanimously.
- Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Tobin, District 37 Administrator/Secretary 08/02/2025